

Gidgegram

Established 1978

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Email: Secretary: Secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au or Treasurer: treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au

Gidgegannup Agricultural Society News

The Gidgegram stories this month focus mainly on the lack of rain and the very dry conditions affecting agriculture throughout the district. Hopefully the drought ends soon so that we can get on with preparing our entries for October's Show.

The Ag Society wish the Small Farm Field Day organisers great success with their event at the end of May! Reminds us of how time has flown by this year.

Expressions of Interest

The Gidge Agricultural Society invite expressions of interest for the position of Chief Animal Steward and volunteers to assist on Show Day.

We must plan the day, so please if you have experience and some time to spend in organising



the event, now is the time to come and join us! For more information contact our Secretary: secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au or speak to any member of the Ag Society committee (See page 20).

An Anzac Day to remember



More than 200 people attended the CWA Gidgegannup Dawn Service 2024. The Ode was read by Mr Eric Smith from RSL Mundaring, and a junior member was MC.

The CWA must be congratulated for providing the community with this beautiful space of respect for memorial services.



The mural depicting Anzacs and the Women's Land Army is exceptional and will be admired by many in the years to come.

Editor's Note: This year's Anzac Day celebration in Gidge was a far cry from those of previous years. I can remember racing up to the village at dawn to photograph a lone trumpeter (Ms Carol Salt) standing in front of the Primary School on the corner of Bunning Road.

Photographs courtesy CWA facebook post.



HELP HELP HELP HELP

Lend a hand on Show Day!

Volunteer to help in the Hall or with the animals

Gidgegannup Agricultural Society Inc.

www.gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-agricultural-society/

Although every effort to remain totally impartial, the Editor and the individual members of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society (The Publisher) cannot be made responsible for comments and opinions voiced in letters received.



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Welcome to new members

Please state your name when paying membership fees as we have no way of knowing who you are.

Gidgegram June 2024: Deadline 23 May 2024 - Distribution 30 May 2024

Advertisements or articles please Download the Advertising Schedule from the website gidgegannup.info
(Groups > Gidgegannup Agricultural Society > Gidgegram)
or phone Sandra Harms on **0429 086 253** or email: sandrafayeharms@gmail.com

Gidge SHOW

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Gidge Football Club



Pre-season training at Midland Speeddome.

Barking Bulldogs

Our first game kicked off with a Saturday night away game against Chidlow, with six new players making their debut. The teams were evenly matched and the game went goal for goal for most of the game with Gidge kicking a couple of late goals to win the match.

The next game was on another Saturday night away game against Mundaring, the boys played an average first half being four goals down at the half time break. After a rev up from the captain the boys clicked into gear and got on top of Mundaring, the game went down to the wire with Gidge kicking a goal in the last few minutes to win by seven points.

Our next game will be against the Premiers Pickering Brook, at home then a Saturday night home game against Mt Helena on May 11 followed by a Saturday night home game against Bullsbrook on May 18, a live band will be playing after the game.

By Peter Whife

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From facebook

Gidge Junior Football Club

Last month, some representatives from our club attended the 2024 RDC Junior Football Season Launch.

We were very pleased to receive an Award of Excellence for the number of kids participating in NAB AFL Auskick with us this year.

A big THANK YOU goes out all of our Auskick families for choosing us this season, and our returning players across all year groups that continue to support Gidgegannup Junior Football Club.

We are very excited for the future of our club



Auskick coordinator Erin Byrne, was presented the Award of Excellence on behalf of Gidgegannup Auskick.

Cr Rod Henderson Swan Valley, Gidgegannup Ward

I'm here to assist with
your City of Swan issues



Check out my Facebook Page
and subscribe to my eNews



0413 496 688



rod.henderson@swan.wa.gov.au



[CrRodHenderson](#)



Authorised by R. Henderson 24 Fillo Way, West Swan

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Gidge Gossips *By Sally Block*

Another month and not much change. Only thing is that it is getting cooler in the evening. We are all hanging on in there with water, feed and planting.

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Someone said to me this morning – well it is only another month until it rains and under normal circumstances that would be true and we would accept it but this year is different. We are told that it is “Climate Change”. Actually it is quite normal to be waiting for rain at this time of year. I remember many Mothers' Days when the weather forecaster has come on the news and said “on this lovely Mothers' Day' to be met with mild abuse from the better half, that “we need rain”. This year the difference is the dry winter in 2023 and the very hot summer in 2024. If this is “climate change” is it our effect on the planet or the facts that we have wars being waged and this undoubtedly causes more pollution than we normally produce. Maybe too simplistic? Volcanoes seem to be pretty active as well which doesn't help. Anyway here we sit with our brown gardens hoping for the heavens to open. Last storm we got 2mm which dried as it hit the ground. The ground is so hard it is affecting the racing with many horses experiencing leg problems from the hard surfaces. This while the rest of Australia is awash!.

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Visits to the supermarkets are wonderful as well with many of the shelves empty because train lines have been so badly affected by the rain. Thought I heard murmurs that all freight should go on rail as we don't need road transport to keep our supply chain functioning! How ironic we are running out of water here in the South West and also groceries because the train lines are flooded. Work that out.

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The good news is that we are told that La Nina is on its way. We will see.

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The Small Farm Field Day is fast approaching and some incredible plans are in place for the day. Have a look at the Programme in this edition of the Gidgegram. Mind you if it rains on the day, knowing the Field Day Committee, they will be claiming all the credit. Looks as though the Hall will not be available in 2025 so both the Show and the Field Day are going to have to work round that. They will, Gidgegannup will still have our two favourite annual events.

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All the horses are home at the moment, hard tracks, growing too fast and need to take life a bit easier. Great fun weaning Bertie off and then freeze branding him, not at all cooperative. Hopefully he will get a bit better as he grows, he is only 5 months old and just gorgeous. The cows are all coping with the dry conditions and the sheep aren't too phased either.

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Love it when people say “what do you do all day up there in Gidgegannup?” It's more a case of what don't we do.

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Just to cheer you up

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question.

The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second, everything was quiet in the cab. Then the driver said, "Look, mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the living daylight out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much."

The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver — I've been driving a funeral van for the last 25 years."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

gpa@gidgegannup.info – www.gidgegannup.info

Next Meetings: 20th May, 17th June and 15th July (AGM) 2024 at 7.30pm at the Agricultural Hall.

GIDGESTOCK: Email sent to City:

At our February meeting we held the Gidgestock Forum.

One of the issues that arose was that of vehicles towing caravans and trailers to the Gidgestock festival and, being unused to rural roads, driving in the middle of the road. Unfortunately Reen Road is not wide enough to do this, which means that this tends to force approaching traffic on to the shoulders of the Road, which, in the case of Reen Road, are not the best.

Is it possible to improve these shoulders or even make passing opportunities. Reen Road is also used by the School bus and numerous horse floats, so the issue is not only with Gidgestock but throughout the year.

We would be grateful for any assistance on this matter.

Response: Thank you for contacting the City regarding the safety of Reen Rd and possible improvements.

City staff completed shoulder maintenance grading on a portion of Reen Rd late 2023 and there are currently no plans to upgrade or widen Reen Road.

The City assesses road upgrades on the basis of current road type, traffic volumes and crash history. The average weekday daily traffic (AWDT) for Reen Road is considered low for a local distributor road at 319 vehicles/day as of 2023 and recent crash history there was only 1 crash recorded in the last 5 years. The crash occurred at the intersection of Reen Road/Toodyay Road. This indicates that the existing road geometry/width is relatively safe.

The City will continue to monitor the situation and undertake maintenance of the road and shoulders on an ad hoc basis to address issues as they arise.

NORTH STONEVILLE UPDATE: SATTERLEY has been given a June deadline to file a further amended North Stoneville SP34 by the State Administration Tribunal (SAT) with strict parameters in place for any third party interventions or submissions.

On March 8 SAT made orders to progress the matter with Satterley required to file a further amended structure plan by June 14. According to a SAT third party participation in planning matter info sheet there are four ways – being called as a witness by the respondent, making submissions under section 242 of the Planning and Development Act 2005, intervening in a proceeding under section 37(3) of the State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004, and possible participation in mediation.

Being called as a witness usually involves giving evidence on behalf of a respondent – in the case of the North Stoneville structure plan the applicant is Satterley Group while the respondent is the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

Regarding intervention the State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004 says the Attorney General may, on behalf of the state, intervene in a proceeding of the tribunal at any time and the tribunal may give leave at any time for a person to intervene in a proceeding on conditions, if any, that the tribunal thinks fit.

A North Stoneville update by the Department of Planning, Lands, and Heritage (DPLH) – listed on the state government's website – said following the submission of a

further amended structure plan the respondent and applicant would each file a statement of issues, facts, and contentions and documents relevant to their case by July 12 and August 9 respectively.

“Applications to intervene under section 37(3) of the State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004 or to make submissions under 242 of the Planning and Development Act 2005 are to be made to the tribunal by August 23,” the update says.

This follows an earlier advice note by the WAPC when it refused the amended structure plan on December 7 last year saying there were typographical and reference inconsistencies and discrepancies in the structure plan documentation that needed to be addressed.

The SAT third party participation in planning matters info sheet said a third party should usually first speak to the respondent or its representative if they wish to give evidence.

“Anyone giving evidence to SAT usually needs to prepare a witness statement of their evidence,” the info sheet said. The DPLH update said Satterley is allowed to address the errors and provide clarification about certain issues to help streamline a final hearing for determination by SAT.

“The order does not allow the applicant to substantially change the structure plan proposal,” the update says. North Stoneville, which proposes a new townsite in the Perth Hills, was first refused by the WAPC in July 2020.

Satterley then applied for a SAT review of the WAPC's refusal and in November 2022 ordered the applicant (Satterley) to provide an amended structure plan and supporting information to the respondent (the WAPC) and also asked the respondent to reconsider their refusal.

The amended structure plan was advertised for public comment between March 10 and May 8 last year.

Interested parties including the community, Save Perth Hills, the Shire of Mundaring, the City of Swan, and government agencies such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services were invited to provide comment.

The WAPC was given an extension to reconsider the amended structure plan to allow referral agencies more time to assess Satterley's traffic and bushfire modelling.

On December 7 last year, the WAPC refused the amended structure plan following the recommendation of the statutory planning committee on November 30.

TELSTRA – COMMUNICATIONS GENERALLY;

GPA have written to Federal Minister copied to our Federal and State representatives. We have received the following response:

“ Thank you for your email of 17 March 2024 to the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, about recent telecommunications outages in Gidgegannup. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

I am sorry to hear that your community was impacted by the recent extreme weather events experienced in Western Australia. The Australian Government recognises the critical role of communications providers in maintaining and restoring services, and understands how vital these services are for keeping communities safe, connected and informed during disasters.

The recent extreme weather events caused extensive damage to the WA electricity network. Telecommunications and the energy network are highly interconnected, with a large majority of telecommunications outages caused by mains power outages.

Improving the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure is an important priority for the Australian Government. The Government's \$656 million Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia (Better Connectivity Plan), which aims to improve mobile and broadband connectivity and resilience in rural and regional Australia, is providing up to \$100 million towards communications resilience. This includes investing in key initiatives such as the Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP) and Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation (TDRI) Program.

The MNHP is a Government initiative funding upgrades to improve the resilience of Australia's mobile network telecommunications infrastructure in regional Australia. Under Round 1, Stage 1 of the MNHP, Telstra was awarded funding to provide an upgraded battery backup power to a minimum of 12 hours to the Gidgegannup Mobile Black Spot Program base station. This upgrade is now complete.

Under Round 1, Stage 2 of the MNHP, portable generator setups will be stationed and deployed from 20 Telstra depots located at various locations in WA, that can be quickly deployed within a 150km radius. This includes two portable generators that will service the local government area of Swan. Telstra has spaced the generators across the state to provide an appropriate degree of overlap. Each generator setup can provide a minimum of 24 hours capacity between refuelling. The deployment includes one 25kVA trailer mounted generator to support a mobile base station and two 3.2kVA portable generators to support feeder transmission sites.

The \$50 million TDRI Program is seeking to support the development and deployment of innovative, new and emerging technologies to ensure that Australians, particularly those in rural, regional, remote and First Nations communities, remain connected and have access to vital telecommunications services when a natural disaster occurs. One of the program's objectives is to address power issues, such as through funding stand-alone power systems that can keep telecommunications infrastructure powered for extended periods.

Applications for the TDRI program have now closed and are currently being assessed. I anticipate that I will make announcements on successful projects shortly. Further information on the TDRI program can be found at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/phone/telecommunications-disaster-resilience-innovation-program.

These investments will help ensure Australia's telecommunication networks are better prepared for natural disasters. However, unfortunately it is not possible for telecommunication infrastructure to be one hundred per cent resilient to every natural hazard in every instance, especially considering the extent and scale of the power disruptions experienced on 17 January 2024.

On 25 January 2024 the Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, announced the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review (the Review). The Review will consider the suitability of regional telecommunications during emergencies and natural disasters. I encourage you to participate in the Review once public consultation commences in April this year. Further information on the Review can be found at www.rtrc.gov.au.

As part of effective emergency preparation and planning, it is strongly recommended that communities do not rely on a

Continued overleaf

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GPA report continued from page 7

single form of communication or source of information during an emergency. A range of information sources should be used in an emergency situation to ensure communities stay aware of local conditions. To support communities in preparing for outages during disasters, the Government developed a range of resources and materials under the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters program which are available on the department's website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/STAND

Thank you for taking the time to write and I trust that this information will be of assistance"

This response does little to address our queries.

Two members of the GPA Committee attended a Telecommunications Forum held on 8th April at Mundaring Arena. Organised by Senator Linda Reynolds.

This was a well organised forum with Telecommunications representatives present and the Shadow Minister for Communications.

There were about 70 members of the community attending and their experiences are very similar to those of Gidgegannup.

Senator Reynolds had sent the following email:

Thank you for attending last night's Telecommunications & Disaster Resilience Community Forum in Mundaring.

It was great to see the honest and respectful participation and engagement from so many community members, and I trust that you felt heard during our discussions.

To continue the momentum, we will establish a dedicated "working group" to develop and implement the solutions we discussed to enhance community resilience. I am working with the Shire President; Paige McNeil to set up that group.

Next week you will receive a summary outlining the key points raised, the proposed steps we intend to take and with whom.

In the meantime, in relation to the information from the NBN Co on NBN access options, you can check your address here: <https://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address>

Once again, thank you for your participation and contribution- I value your input and I look forward to working together."

It was felt by all attendees at the meeting that satellite technology is the future.

There is another forum being held on Monday 22nd April along the same lines, hosted by the Labor Party.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLANS;

Jessica Shaw's office has raised this with the Minister and we

await further information.

GIDGEGANNUP SHOWGROUNDS PLAY SPACE UPGRADE

The community has requested that City works be completed ahead of the Small Farm Field Day in May 2024. It appears that little work has been done so far except for a fence surrounding the Play space.

PERMIT BURNING SEASON:

With the continuing dry weather the start of the burning season continues to be deferred.

LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME LPS 18:

Comment can be made at:

https://www.swan.wa.gov.au/awcontent/Web/Documents/Final-Agenda-Ordinary_Meeting_of_Council_-March.pdf

GIDGEGANNUP HALL RENEWAL -

CONSULTATION SESSION: 9am FRIDAY 5th APRIL

City tabled up to date plans. Work may commence February/March 2025 and Show and Field Day will not be able to use the Hall. Area will be completely fenced off for safety reasons. Cr. Henderson asked for a clearer time line and outline of work required. Criticism that the Plan is based on community information that is now 8 years old.

Work will include essential upgrades to wiring, roof, removal of asbestos, new ramp for access, new disabled toilet. Upgrade to toilet and kitchen areas. Upgrade to patio area. Need to keep work under 500 square metres. To avoid extra fire requirements.

By Sally Block



Gidgegannup Hall maintenance due to start in 2025.

Renewing Hope Counselling in Gidgegannup

Life throws many struggles at one point or another. Although it is a normal course of life we often find it difficult to navigate through what is going on, let alone bear it on our own. Sometimes it helps to have someone you can learn to trust and share your burden with. There is a space where you will not feel judged, only heard and together we can work out a plan to help you get unstuck and move forward to achieving a more meaningful life.

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Count down to the Small Farm Field Day



Only a few weeks to go!
Sunday 26th May - 9am to 4:30pm

This year's Countryman Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day is shaping up to be another amazing event. Jam packed full of information, animals, poultry, plants, sheepdog display, horse display.

This year we have a bigger food and wine display using both the large and lesser halls.

Our theme of Toadstools, Mushrooms and Fungi is generating a lot of interest. With a talk from Fungi fanatic Faye Acaro.

A stall by Mycocasa, Jay not only grows edible mushrooms, but makes, a mushroom stock and medicinal tinctures.

The Discovery trail for the youngsters also involves searching for toadstools by visiting as many areas as possible.

Agricultural departments will be on hand to answer all those tricky questions.

Don't miss Chris Ferreira's talk and see his demonstration of a firewise garden being installed onsite.

Check out the plant selection in our new dedicated gardeners dell. Next to Burgo's Bar.

Plenty of entertainment, the one and only Paul Davies, Mad Tatters Morris Dancers, plus The Fantastic Fairies will be flitting around the grounds.

New this year is the roving performance by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre - The Sheep Muster

There really is something for everyone. Still only \$15.00 adults, under 16 are free entry. Great value as this includes all the talks by experts in their fields.



Buy tickets at the gate. Gate 6 for credit card and cash, Gate 2 cash only. But we will have QR codes up at each gate.

The easiest way is to buy your tickets online in advance at.

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-countryman-gidgegannup-small-farm-field-day/tickets>

By Penny Morgan

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The end of an era - Thank you Ann and Allan

For over 25 years that I can remember, Allan Edge and Ann Williams have served the community in the capacity of Post Master and Mistress.

The small business was set up as a newsagency selling stationery, gifts, newspapers and magazines, it was always an Australia Post agency, never a 'Post Office' as such.

For many years Allan tried hard to attract a licence from Lottery West to bring Lotto to Gidgegannup. We signed petition after petition sadly to no avail.

Nevertheless they opened the shop early and shut late to accommodate country commuters. Allan and Ann were there, always ready to help with their friendly service and gave anyone time to have a chat.

Then things changed drastically when the internet arrived and online shopping started, it must have been



The Queen and Queen Consort of Gidgegannup.

overwhelming, keeping track of all that post and package deliveries. However Ann and Allan managed without a whimper.

One year an enthusiastic member of our community organised a High Tea at Noble Falls Tavern to elect 'the Queen of Gidge'. The Duchesses of Gidgegannup were invited and voting began. There was no doubt that Ann Williams would be crowned Queen, Allan was Queen Consort and they were both driven home in a Limo! It was a fun day.

So although we are sad to farewell Ann and Allan, we are happy that they now have some time to enjoy life, even go out to lunch now and again.

The business is being well looked after by Allan's daughter Rowan in the meantime.



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How to fertilise for crops and pasture

Around the Paddock

by The Farmer



Crickey, who would have thought that this far into the year and still no rain. I was talking to a knowledgeable local a few days ago and he suggested I make a forecast of when it "will", "might" rain. So here goes. May 10, not sure what year though. He is of the opinion May 20, a bit more definite, saying 2024.

Even though this dry spell is causing a huge amount of angst amongst all of us, the main thing is to try and stay positive.

The amount of trees that are stressing and dying is unbelievable.

The road verges are starting to look pretty forlorn. Water for home use and stock is certainly in a precarious state.

Stock feed, hay, is at a premium and being fed out as if it is gold based.

The hard part for those of that have to cart water, is the time it chews up every day. Looking at the parched and dusty paddocks and dry dams certainly does not help one's mental outlook.

So, if you or anyone you know is struggling with this scenario seek help, it is out there, and don't suffer alone.

The time is getting close to start thinking about pasture and/or hay crops to be planted. A few tips to make life a little easier before starting.

Start by cleaning up any leaf litter, twigs, branches and any rocks that may have appeared over the past few months..

A clean paddock is a breeze to work in with machinery, once the rubbish is removed.

If your paddocks have large deposits of animal manure, dragging harrows around to break it up will also enhance the soil profile.

Of course some moisture on the ground will do a better job than just creating a huge amount of dust. This can then be worked back into the ground, a lot easier than clumps.

Once rain is a bit more prevalent, getting rid of the unwanted weeds can be controlled by spraying with a knock-down herbicide – this is the quickest method, but I know that many people are not in favour of this.

Grazing animals will achieve a similar result, but this way takes longer, and doesn't kill the weed problem, and scarifying or ploughing has to take place.

Scarifying or ploughing the areas is eco friendly but a longer time frame is required to get full weed control. This method can take two to three weeks more to achieve the same result as spraying.

It's important to know what the fertiliser history of your property is. If unknown then the present time is a good time to start record keeping.

Testing for soil ph is a handy tool for finding out what the ground is lacking in. These tests can help greatly in making the soil as productive as possible.

Lime is a valuable form and is available in different forms.

Though my preference is for a blended lime, not as much product is needed per hectare as compared to lime sand.

Gypsum is another product which usually works well on the heavier soil types.

Fertiliser, super phosphate, with blends of potash, and if needed, trace elements are essential for the production of healthy, vigorous pasture and crops.

With trace elements I recommend that these are applied about every five years. I find that if lime is applied, it is best to do it annually. So, if there isn't a fertiliser history then apply super phosphate and trace elements in the first year.

The second year just super phosphate on its own.

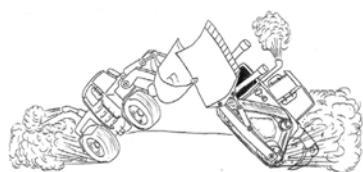
The third year apply super phosphate and potash. There are various grades of potash 3:1, 3:2, and soon. A ph soil sample test will indicate the levels of what is required for the areas to be sown.

The fourth year back to straight supersaturate only, and the fifth year back to super phosphate and pot ash with the blend that best suits your soil types.

Once the ground preparation has been accomplished seeding can be started. If you are first time farmers, there is a lot of pleasure in being able to sit back and see what you have achieved. The only thing missing in all of this, is what the God's send from the Heavens, rain. It is just as important as all the rest that goes into getting started.

Though like every thing else these days, fertilisers and the various seeds are not cheap, but to achieve good feed and crops a dollar spent on these will certainly be repaid in the end result.

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Oh, give me your pity,
I'm on a Committee,
Which means that from morning
to night,
We attend and amend,
And contend and defend,
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur,
We defer and demur,
And reiterate all of our thoughts.
We revise the agenda
With frequent addenda
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose,
We suppose and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun!
But though various notions
Are brought up as Motions,
There's terribly little gets done!

Gidgegannup Recreation Club News

It was great to see so many turn out for the swap meet. We had increasing in the number of people selling their wares this year so lots to see and buy this year for all those who came along. The barbeque worked overtime supplying scrumptious sausage sizzle for all to enjoy.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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COMING EVENTS

Saturday May 18th
Gidge v Bullsbrook
After game live band begins



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STRESS TEST Part 1

No-one is exactly sure how it works, but this test is amazingly accurate. It was used in a case study on stress levels at St Mary's Hospital. Look at the photo opposite of two dolphins jumping out of the water. **The dolphins are identical.**

A closely-monitored, scientific study of the group revealed that, in spite of the fact that the dolphins are identical, a person under stress would find differences in the two dolphins. If there are many differences found between the dolphins, it means that the person looking is experiencing a significant degree of stress. Look at the photograph and if you find more than one or two differences, you may want to take a vacation.

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A dead duck

A woman brought a very limp duck to a veterinary surgeon. She laid her pet on the table and the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, he shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck Cuddles has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

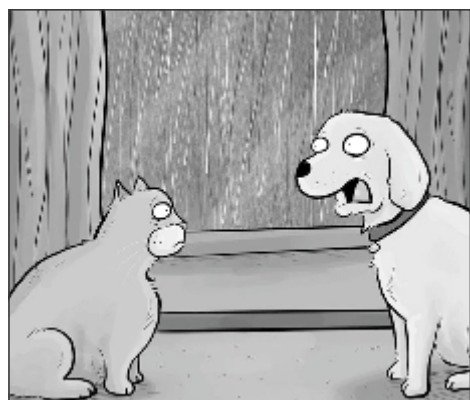
The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room, returning a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room.

A few minutes later he returned with a Siamese cat who jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. Then she sat back on her haunches, shook her head and meowed softly, then strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." He turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried. "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150."



Lilac Hill foreshore revegetation project plants the seeds of a greener future

The revegetation of Lilac Hill's picturesque foreshore is underway with thousands of native plants set to line the banks of the Swan River.

The City of Swan has teamed up with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) for a two-year co-funded project that will have environmental benefits for many years to come.


The revegetation efforts will develop the ecological corridor from Lilac Hill Park's southern foreshore to Barkers Bridge, supporting biodiversity, increasing shade and stabilising soils along the riverbank. The project was launched with a

traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony by Noongar man Trevor Stack near Lilac Hill Park on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

It was made possible by \$172,513 in grant funding from the DBCA's Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest (SCRUF) program, and guidance from Aboriginal environmental consultants.

The SCRUF program helps to deliver projects that improve the Swan Canning Riverpark's amenity, use and ecosystem health.

Preserving Swan's incredible natural assets is a key focus for the City.




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Friends of Gidge Reserve

After what seems like an endless summer (Bunuru) we are well into Autumn (Djeran). Last year Gidge had over 100 mm at the end of April. This year it is very different and we really need some rain.

The reserve, like all the of the South West is really struggling due to the dryness and lack of rain. Hopefully some cooler weather will see a change in weather patterns and we will get the much needed rainfall.

Like last year we have another supply of seedlings to plant. The City of Swan kindly helps us out and we have another 800 tube stock to put in. We have some dates for planting these. **Sunday May 26th, Sunday June 30th and Sunday July 28th, at 8-8.30am.**

The friends group always tries to have a walk after the planting where we discuss all aspects of the reserve.



Friends of Gidge Reserve members at planting July 2023.

There is always someone who can share their knowledge and we normally always learn something new. If anyone has an interest in nature and would like to come along please do and enjoy the following: Flora and fauna, history, Geology, Noongar whadjuk connection etc. Our goal is to appreciate nature and do what we can to preserve what we have.

Meeting point is just down from the East Gidgegannup fire station, on the road to Percy Cullen oval
Come long if you can make it.

Any queries call Spud 0408 884 490

By Bill Karoll

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Please forward your completed form and subscription to:

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PO Box 22, Gidgegannup WA, 6083

Email: treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au

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Children attending Primary & Secondary schools are included in Family Membership.

Child 1 - Name & Date of Birth:.....

Child 2 - Name & Date of Birth:

Child 3 - Name & Date of Birth:

(If necessary, attach additional Family Members separately.)

Membership fees: Family: \$30.00 Single: \$15.00

Applications for Membership will be considered at the next Committee Meeting of the Society

A Yarn in the yards

With genes&jeans

The Dalai Llama maintains that you have to know the rule well in order to break it effectively.

He probably wasn't thinking about house cows when he said it, but the maxim fits precisely. The Golden Rule is that a milking cow's udder has to be emptied every day so she continues to make milk and doesn't get mastitis.

A dairyman will allow a newborn 24-48 hours with its mother to ensure the calf gets sufficient colostrum, then take it to the nursery and put the cow into his milking string for once or twice daily milking. He has a quota to fill and that's how he does it.

Getting up in the dark to milk at 5.00am every day with a repeat performance at 5.00pm is one way to empty your cow (and please feel free to enjoy doing that if you wish) but there are plenty of softer options. Cherished house cows on small acreages in the Hills can be handled in several different ways to suit your lifestyle while achieving the required result.

After settling down for a day or two after calving:

- Decide on once or twice a day milking. Remember you will have to feed the appropriate ration to maintain milk production or your cow's condition will drop off quickly.
- You can strip the milk once or twice a day with the calf left with its mother ... but you might not get as much cream as you would like. Cows can be very clever at holding their milk up. If her calf is a dairy heifer, do not let the calf get too fat.
- The calf can be separated overnight and your milk requirement taken before letting the calf in to drink its share and empty the udder, then the calf stays with mother all day.
- With a very high-producing cow, a foster calf running with



Cats in the dairy .



Stacey with M and Ms.

her own calf will take excess milk not required for the household. Some cows will readily feed another calf in the paddock, but this could mean that the calves have to be kept separate and let in twice a day for a drink, otherwise the household supply will be in jeopardy.

You will find that your house cow can be readily managed in one or other of these ways, keeping her happily fed, comfortably emptied and her calf raised very nicely. A useful spin off is that the calf is handled regularly and can be broken in early on. While breaking rules is not generally to be recommended, in this instance the flexibility of the Dalai Llama's insight can be very acceptable.

By Jean Witcombe



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Don't forget to update Community Numbers

Due to changes in telephone services and NBN connections, many people have cancelled their landlines.
 If your details have changed please send new details to sandrafayeharms@gmail.com

Stephen Williamson



Stephen Williamson

Stephen Williamson, a well respected member of the Community, passed away on 17th April, while in hospital in Midland.

Stephen came to live in Gidgegannup in 1952 when his family moved here.

Throughout his lifetime Stephen became involved in the local community and received a lifetime membership of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society in 2018.

From all that knew Stephen, condolences and best wishes go to his wife Kay and their extended family.

The Funeral was held at St Brigids Catholic Church in Midland May 1st.

He will be sadly missed

What do they do?

Chief Animal Steward - Looks after all existing Animal Sections, makes changes to any classes, allocate prizes from those given by Sponsorship Manager. Provides list of judges, so that they can be sent their Judges passes for entry into the show.

Chief Hall Steward - Overlooks all existing Hall Sections, makes changes to any classes, allocate prizes from those given by Sponsorship Manager.

Sponsorship Manager - has to contact existing sponsors and chase up new ones – Sponsors to be in keeping with Sectional prizes, eg. Cooking Section to have cooking related sponsors.

Show Book - All information to be forwarded to Show Book Manager for collation/alteration. Artwork must be completed by early July each year, so that it can be printed by August meeting for distribution by committee.

Entertainment Manager - Organises the entertainment for the Show, making sure

there is entertainment provisions for the whole family.

Groundspace - Allocates Stall holders and Exhibitors with their space on the Showgrounds.

Editor's Note: the above mentioned duties are only a few of the tasks required to make this event a success, my apologies for those not mentioned here.

Volunteers - Please note, where do you think you would find your best place, with the animals or in the hall, catering or parking, wherever it may be, it is important on the day!

2024 Committee

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Snr Vice President: Hugh Burges
Jnr Vice President: June Quinsee
Treasurer: Collin Messervy
Secretary: Carolyn Webster

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